

## **Abstract**

### **PROTECTION OF COMPETITION – BLOCK EXEMPTIONS**

The purpose of my thesis is to describe and analyze regulation of block exemptions mainly in the light of Commission's Guidelines. The function of block exemptions is to exempt certain agreements from the prohibition of distortion of competition.

The thesis is composed of five chapters, each of them dealing with different aspects related to the concept of block exemptions. First chapter is an introduction into the topic of protection of competition and explains basic principles and terminology.

Chapter two deals with other exemptions from prohibition of distorting competition. The chapter is divided into four subchapters. The first one analyzes four aspects of the exemption under Article 101 (3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. The second subchapter focuses on de minimis rule. Third subchapter deals with exemption in agriculture sector. Finally, the problem of block exemptions is briefly introduced.

Third chapter follows the historic development of the concept of block exemptions both in European law and Czech law. Firstly, it describes the reasons for introduction of block exemptions by the Commission and then it focuses on the change of approach in year 2004, when ex post control was introduced. Second part of the chapter deals with Czech regulation of block exemptions and how they were introduced into the Czech legal order and what is current status of block exemptions in Czech law.

Chapter four examines the system of block exemptions. The analysis of the system focuses on possible classification of block exemptions, it also looks at the process of adoption, withdrawal and disapplication of block exemptions. The chapter considers typical clauses that occur in the agreements falling under the scope of exemption.

Fifth chapter is subdivided into four parts, namely vertical block exemptions, horizontal block exemptions, technology transfer and sector block exemptions. Each part introduces and analyzes respective Regulations and is followed by brief assessment of the legislation.

Finally, the conclusion of the thesis aims at evaluating of the legislation regarding exemption from prohibition of distortion of competition. Part of the conclusion attempts to draw conclusions on similar aspects of the individual block exemptions and discusses the application of block exemptions.